

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 2001

Docket No. R2001-1

RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO AN INTERROGATORY OF MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS SCHENK
(MPA/USPS-T43-1)

The United States Postal Service hereby provides the response to the following
interrogatory of Magazine Publisher of America, Inc.: MPA/USPS-T43-1, filed on
October 10, 2001. Interrogatory MPA/USPS-T43-1 was redirected from witness
Schenk.

The interrogatory is stated verbatim and is followed by the response.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr.
Chief Counsel, Ratemaking


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October 24, 2001

**RESPONSE OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
TO AN INTERROGATORY OF MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
REDIRECTED FROM WITNESS SCHENK**

MPA/USPS-T43-1. In Section II of your testimony, you discuss your methodology for calculating cost savings from reduced bundle breakage.

- (a) Please confirm that the Postal Service recently promulgated new standards for the packaging of flats, that these new standards became effective on July 1, 2001, and that these standards were designed to improve package integrity. If not confirmed, please explain fully.
- (b) Please refer to the "Additional Efforts To Reduce Package Breakage and Associated Costs" section of the Federal Register notice titled "Preparation Changes for Securing Packages of Mail." (February 20, 2001, page 10870) and confirm that the mailing industry and the Postal Service are working on multiple fronts to improve package integrity. If not confirmed, please explain fully.
- (c) Has the Postal Service undertaken a data collection effort to precisely quantify the extent to which these joint USPS-mailing industry efforts have improved package integrity? If so, please provide the data. If not, does the Postal Service have plans to collect this information and when will this data collection occur?

RESPONSE:

- (a) Confirmed.
- (b) Confirmed.
- (c) The Postal Service has not undertaken a data collection effort regarding the joint USPS-mailing industry efforts to improve package integrity. It had planned to begin data collection in October 2001. However, the events of September 11, 2001 and its aftermath have delayed the start of the effort until January or February 2002.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.


Nan K. McKenzie

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